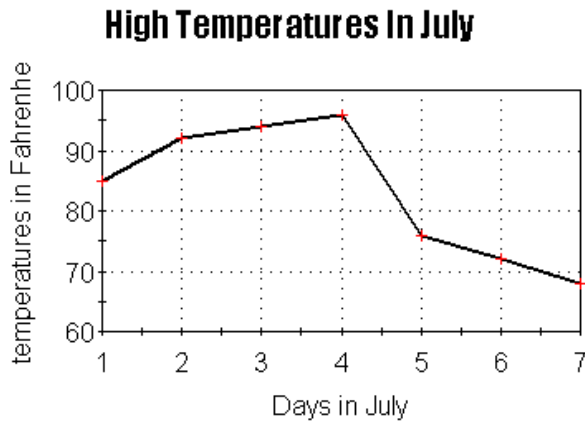


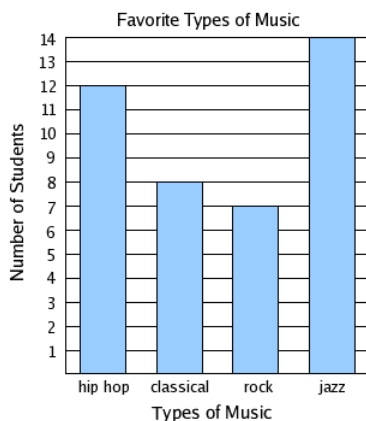
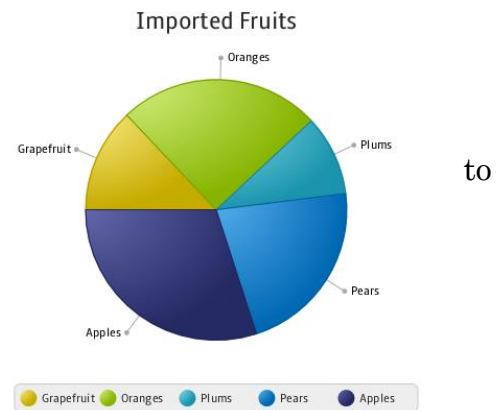
NAME _____ DATE _____

HOW TO CHOOSE WHICH TYPE OF GRAPH TO USE?

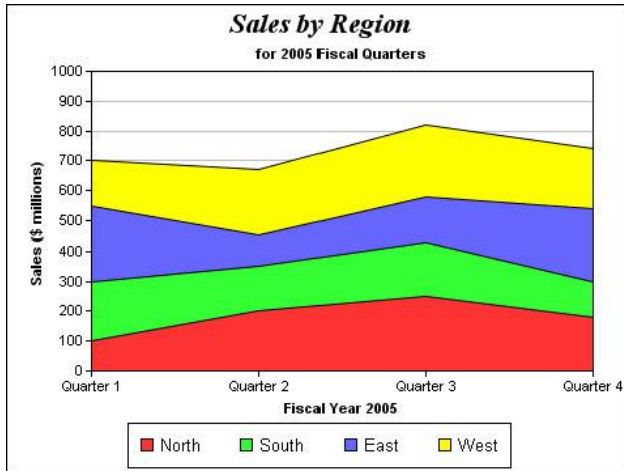


Line graphs are used to track changes over short and long periods of time. When smaller changes exist, line graphs are better to use than bar graphs. Line graphs can also be used to compare changes over the same period of time for more than one group.

Pie charts are best to use when you are trying compare parts of a whole. They do not show changes over time.

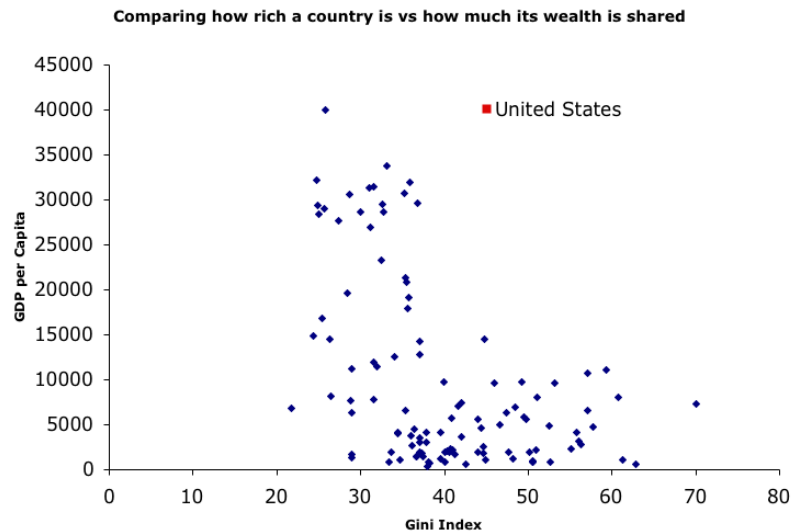


Bar graphs are used to compare things between different groups or to track changes over time. However, when trying to measure change over time, bar graphs are best when the changes are larger.



Area graphs are very similar to line graphs. They can be used to track changes over time for one or more groups. Area graphs are good to use when you are tracking the changes in two or more related groups that make up one whole category (for example public and private groups).

X-Y plots are used to determine relationships between the two different things. The x-axis is used to measure one event (or variable) and the y-axis is used to measure the other. If both variables increase at the same time, they have a positive relationship. If one variable decreases while the other increases, they have a negative relationship. Sometimes the variables don't follow any pattern and have no relationship.



- 1) Which graph would you choose to compare different parts of a whole? _____
- 2) Which graph would you use to track changes of time for more than one group? _____
- 3) Which graph would you use to determine relationships between two different things? _____
- 4) Which graph would you use to track changes of short and long period of time? _____
- 5) Which graph would you use to measure change over time when the changes are large? _____